

Remarks

Claims 1 and 3-28 are pending and remain pending.

Prior Election/Restriction Requirement

The Examiner indicated that the Election/Restriction Requirement mailed December 17, 2002 supercedes the prior Election/Restriction Requirement mailed July 25, 2002. Accordingly, Applicant rescinds the election of invention made in the Response filed September 25, 2002.

Telephone Interview

Applicant's Agent Scott Kamholz exchanged telephone messages with Examiner Schmidt on January 9, 2003 regarding the drawings objection included in the Election/Restriction Requirement. Mr. Kamholz requested additional time to prepare and file the drawings because the one-month period of reply was insufficient. The Examiner stated that a Response to the Election/Restriction Requirement would be considered fully responsive provided that corrected drawings were filed within three months of the mailing date of the Election/Restriction Requirement, i.e., by March 17, 2003. Applicant understands that no petition for an extension of time will be required to file the corrected drawings by March 17, 2003. If this understanding is in error, Applicant respectfully requests clarification. Applicant thanks Examiner Schmidt for helping to resolve this issue.

Drawings

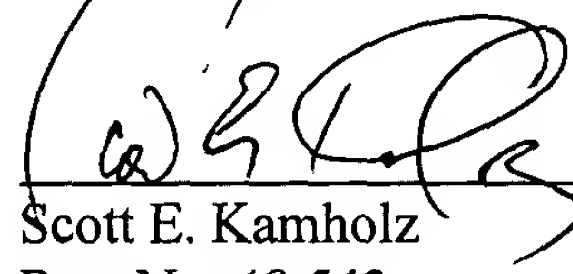
The drawings were objected to for informalities listed in the Draftsperson's Review. As discussed above, corrected drawings will be provided by March 17, 2003 for the Examiner's consideration.

Conclusion

No fees are believed due in connection with the filing of this Response. However, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account, No. 06-1448.

If a telephone conversation with Applicant's Agent would expedite prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is urged to call the undersigned at (617) 832-1176 or at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
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